

## **TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2016**

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. David St. Pierre, Executive Director

..Title

Adopt Ordinance O16-002 An Ordinance Authorizing and Providing For the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$346,000,000 General Obligation Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

..Body

Dear Sir:

Attached is the first of six ordinances being presented to the Board today relating to the District's anticipated General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds sale totaling \$500,000,000. The authority to sell the Bonds expires on September 30, 2016. This expiration period has been proposed to allow for flexibility in issue size and the ability to adapt to changing conditions in the bond market. Authority is requested to access the market to sell up to \$104,000,000 in new money bonds to fund capital improvement projects and up to \$396,000,000 in refunding bonds dependent upon market conditions. The size and structure of the sale will be determined with the assistance of the Underwriters and Financial Advisors based upon the market interest rates, investor cash positions, supply of bonds for sale, liquidity of the market and other conditions.

This Ordinance O16-002 authorizes the sale of not to exceed \$346,000,000 General Obligation Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds. The bonds eligible for current refunding are the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Unlimited Tax Series of May, 2006 in the amount of \$346,600,000. The purpose of the refunding is to provide a reduction in the debt service levy due to the decrease in market interest rates. The sale of refunding bonds is estimated to provide present value debt service savings of \$67,000,000 or 20% based upon current market interest rates.

The Ordinance sets the legal parameters for issuance of the bonds and provides for various necessary details relative to the bonds, including the required authority to levy and collect the direct annual taxes for payment of bond principal and interest as due, and the Ordinance authorizes the Treasurer and any one elective officer of the District to sign a binding bond purchase agreement with the underwriters on behalf of the District, and also to sign a related "Bond Order," on the date of sale. Such authority permits the sale to be completed in a prompt and timely manner when conditions in the bond market are in a stable and acceptable state for issuance of the District's bonds.

The purchase price is set at not less than 97% of the original principal amount; compensation to the purchasers is not to exceed fifty cents(\$0.50) per \$1,000 principal amount of bonds sold (excluding syndicate expenses and underwriter counsel fees); the bonds may be subject to optional redemption at not more than 103%; maximum interest rate is 6.00% per annum; the bonds may mature not later than December 1, 2031; and the present value debt service savings obtained by the District as a result of refunding the prior bonds shall not be less than three percent(3.0%) of the principal amount of the prior bonds to be refunded.

It is recommended that "Ordinance O16-002 Authorizing and Providing For the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$346,000,000 General Obligation Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago" be adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Requested, Mary Ann Boyle, Treasurer, MAB:st  
Respectfully Submitted, Frank Avila, Chairman Committee on Finance  
Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting  
Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for April 7, 2016